GUIDE TO THE AD4 FORMOSAN ABORIGINES FILE

[The AD4 file, a subfile of the AD1 Formosa file, is concerned with the native peoples of the island of Formosa. Although all of these people belong to the Indonesian or Proto-Malayan physical and linguistic type, they immigrated to different areas of the island at different times. Consequently they differ culturally, linguistically and to the extent of acculturation. The native people have been divided for a long time into two groups on the basis of the degree of acculturation. The Pepo-huan (also known as Jukuban, Kibalan, Lek-huan, or Sek-huan) have been almost completely absorbed by the Chinese. In 1953 they numbered about 50,000 and lived on the western plains. The Che-huan (or Seiban), who numbered 150,000 in 1953, live in the central mountains, eastern coast and Botel Tobago Island. They are considerably less acculturated than the Pepo-huan and according to old reports had the reputation of being war-like headhunters. The Che-huan are divided into a number of different tribes, the largest of which is the Atayal. The Atayal are further subdivided into smaller groups. Groups for which there is some specific information in this subfile are the Atayal, Paiwan, Tsou, Ami, and Yami. In 1953 the Ami were described as having "... intensive agriculture and some fishing; pile dwellings; paddle and anvil pottery; long wooden shields; feather headdresses; clans; matrilineal descent and matrilocal residence; classificatory or Malayan kinship terminology; parent-child nymic linkage; and age grades." (51: Chen and Coe, p. 250.)

There are nine sources which have been marked specifically for the AD4 subfile, and miscellaneous pages from the AD1 file. Most of these sources are short articles with only miscellaneous bits of information written by travelers,

newspapermen, etc. The primary value of a number of them seems to be that they are very early reports. Sources on the aborigines in general are 14: Tamai, 16: Müller, 20: Alvarez, 21: Asai, and 24: Anonymous. 17: Norbeck is a comparison of Atayal and Philippine folklore. 19: Guérin and Bernard is a discussion of the Atayal. 34: Del Re concerns myths and legends of the Yami. 51: Chen and Coe contains brief data on Ami religion. Other sources in the AD1 Formosa file contain considerable information on the aborigines. Complete bibliographic references and texts will be found in the AD1 file. These sources are 7: Joest, 11: Haguenauer, 18: Kakyo, 22: Wiedfeldt, 25: Plaut, 26: Honda, 31: Hofmann, 35: Collingwood--which seems to contain the only data on the Pepo-huan in the file and was written in 1868-- 36: Dodd, 37: Steere, 39: Wiedfeldt, 46: Ruey, 49: Wei, and 50: Ruey. This file was processed in 1951-56. Most of the file is in the typed format and lacks the standardized OWC designations.]